S.No.	Recommendations of the Subramaniam Committee	Action taken by the Government
	comprehensive training to customs staff.	protection, law and forensic science are organised by the Wildlife Institute of India for Customs Officials.
12.	Set up Wildlife Forensic Science Unit in Wildlife Insititute of India.	A Wildlife Forensic Lab has been set up in the Wildlife Institute of India.
13.	Enlist co-operation of Non-Governmental organisation for wildlife conservation and preservation	Co-operation of eminent NGOs with proven track record is enlisted for wildlife conservation.
14.	Ensure better co-ordination between various enforcement agencies for curbing illegal trade in wildlife and its products.	i) A Special Co-ordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up in the Ministry of Environment & Forests for curbing illegal trade in wildlife and its products. ii) Special training workshop to control illegal wildlife trade is organised by Wildlife institute of India for various enforcement agencies like Customs, CBI and para-military forces.
15.	Establish a Central Task Force for prevention of crime against wildlife.	Action has been initiated to establish Special Enforcement Machanism to deal with the poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
16.	Establish a Central Wildlife Crime Data Bank to collect, collate and analyse data on wildlife.	Central Wildlife Crime Data Bank is an Integral component of Wildlife Trade Prevention and Control Bureau mentioned at serial number 15.

Recovery of Sugar from Sugarcane

*227. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recovery of sugar from sugracane is about 9 per cent in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, as compared to 11 per cent to 13 per cent in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) whether sucrose content in the sugarcane is also as low as 9 per cent;

(c) whether any studies have been made in this direction by Government; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) The average recovery of sugar per cent cane for the last 5 sugar seasons in respect of U.P. Bihar, Maharashtra and Gujarat are as under:—

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Uttar Pradesh	9.37%	9.42%	8.71%	9.36%	9.59%
Bihar	9.20%	9.15%	8.82%	9.23%	9.49%
Maharashtra	11.14%	10.93%	10.48%	11.11%	11.12%
Gujarat	11.09%	11.65%	10.48%	10.71%	10.63%

(b) The sucrose content (Pol%) in the sugrcane during the seasons 1995-96 to 1997-98 in the State of Uttar Pradesh ranged between 8.99 to 12.77%, while in the case of Bihar State it ranged between 9.04% to 12.28%.

(c) and (d) The sugarcane cultivation is characterised by low productivity and there is also low level of sugar recovery for a variety of reasons particularly in sub-tropical parts of India. With a view to have an indepth analysis of the constraints in this regard and to evolve suitable research and development strategies to tackle the same, Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) in January, 1997 constituted a Committee headed by Secretary (Agriculture and Cooperation) with Secretary (Food) and Director General (ICAR) as Members and Joint Secretary (Crops) as Member Secretary. The terms of the reference of the Committee were as follows:—

(a) To suggest measures for increasing average sugar recovery through varietal diversification and effective extension.

(b) To suggest methods for effective operationalisation of Sugar Development Fund; and

(c) To assess the need to strengthen cooperative structure and credit availability to farmers. The recommendations of the Committee made in its Report of July, 1997 are enclosed as Statements.

Statement-I

Recommendations of the Committee

Following are some of the major recommendations of the Committee appointed to suggest remedial measures to improve productivity and production of sugarcane with higher sugar recovery in the sub-tropical regions, particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

1. Productivity and recovery of sugar in Uttar Pradesh has been fairly low compared to the States not only in tropical regions but also in other States in the northern region.

2. While the research institute under ICAR system have evolved a number of varieties with better yield potential, higher sucrose content to permit improved recovery, their spread has been slow in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Partly this may be due to the decisions of the State Government that in respect of varieties to be recommended for cultivation in the different regions of the State these will be based on the recommendations of the State Council of Sugarcane Research. Normally these are based upon the advice of the Sugarcane Research Station at Shajahanpur.

3. It would be better that even in respect of varietal evaluation in the case of sugarcane, the same procedure as adopted under trials of improved varieties under various All-India Crop Improvement Projects are adopted. That is performance of all promising varieties sponsored are tried out and that in this process the Coordinator of the All-India Coordinated Project is consulted. It would be worthwhile to evaluate all varieties irrespective of the location of the institute which is sponsoring the variety.

4. In the evaluation of the results of the trials it would be useful to associate the sugar factories also, so that they would be able to judge the varieties which could be profitably cultivated in their catchment areas from where the sugarcane is drawn for crushing. Recent decisions of the Government of Uttar Pradesh is commended and this should be invariably followed.

5. Systematic evaluation of all the varieties being evolved by different research institutes in India could assist in the farmers and sugar factories having a better field of selection of the varieties which they could

cultivate for enhancing productivity and production with higher sucrose content.

6. There is need for a time-bound programme for varietal diversification. Improved varieties with better tolerance to red rot, higher sucrose content and varying maturities should be attempted in a time-bound manner,with a view to achieving at least 25% of the cane area being brought under recommended early varieties within a span of four years.
7. There is need for systematic multiplication of sugarcane planting material. The nucleus seed of planting material could be drawn from the institution where the variety is evolved, but the further multiplication as breeder seed could be udertaken by the research institution under the Sponsored, Breeder concept. Such institutions could be research stations of the State Agriculture Universities, or the research farms maintained by even the sugar factories provided the scientists working at the farms are recognised as sponsored breeders by the coordinators or the ICAR.
8. Further multiplication of the breeder seed should be udnertaken as foundation seed in close association with sugar mills and the cane societies on the lands of progressive farmers under contract growing arrangements adopting a cluster of villages approach. The foundation seed material should be further multiplied in all the important disease free areas by the growers. This should be undertaken under the aegis of the sugar mills and the concerned cane societies.
9. The sugar mill or the mill along with cane society could establish required hot air treament plants to treat the planting material so that the planting material is free from red rot disease which is an important factor leading to lower yields of cane.
10. Quick multiplication of promising varieties could be accelerated through Tissue Culture methods. The existing schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation provide financial assistance for the establishment of Tissue Culture laboratories. The task would be facilitated by standardising the protocols for micro propagation of sugarcane, which essentially could focus on multiplication of the nucleus material drawn from the research institutions to provide the planting material requirements for further multiplication by the factories in association with the sugarcane farmers

and the concerned cane cooperative societies.

11. Cane Cooperaitve Societies have been established taking the responsibility for supply of sugarcane to the factories from what could be called the catchment area of the factory. It is understood that only the societies which could supply cane to the factory. It is also understood that even in the case of Cooperative sugar factories the supply of sugarcane is organised by the concerned cane society and the factory management has little say in drawing the sugarcane for crushing. Only in respect of new cooperative factories there is no stipulation that cane society alone has the responsibility for supply of cane. It was also expected that the cane society would provide variety of services to the sugarcane growers apart from assisting the delivery of the cane to the factory and getting the payments for sugarcane supplied to the factory for farmers. The societies were expected to assist the farmers in obtaining critical inputs such as the planting material, adequate credit, ensure availability of fertilizers, etc. It would appear, that many of the societies are in a position to undertake these tasks for often the health of the factory and the cane society go hand in hand.

12. The cane societies could play an important role and necessarily they must be controlled by the sugarcane growing farmers members and as fully accountable to the farmers alone. It would appear that this is not always the case. The State Government should ensure that all sugarcane farmers become members of the society, if not already enrolled.

13. The cane societies in association with the sugar mills must plan for staggered planting of cane by their members which could ensure harvesting of cane at the right stage of maturity for supply to the mills, thereby increasing the recovery of sugar. The societies togetherwith mills must also ensure that the credit requirements of sugarcane cultivation would be provided by financial institutions with recovery of the loans tied up that supplies of cane to the factories. The societies could also over time consider undertaking harvesting of cane of the members and delivery to the factories on a centralised basis as is the practice of cooperative sugar factories.

14. An important aspect is the management of ratoon crops and it is

necessary to extend the technologies being generated amongst the farmers so that the yield gaps between the planted and ratoon crops could be minimised to the extent possible.

15. The Sugar Development funds have been used to promote research on sugarcane to assist the factories in cane development work. Specific programmes for planting material, treatment for the planting material to produce disease free material could be projectised for funding from the SDF. In this the programme should be developed by the mills and the concerned societies jointly.

16. There have also been suggestions for permitting establishment of vacuum pan factories of even low capacity, *i.e.* the existing khandsari sugar factory also go in for the putting for vacuum pans. Feasibility of permitting this should be examined for taking up this by the Department of Sugar & Edible Oils.

17. At present payment to farmers are made on the basis of weight of cane and not on the sugar content. This discourages farmers from growing varieties of high sugar content. Rapid techniques for assessing sugar content which has been developed with the help of HPCL need to the standarised and perfected.

Uduthorehall Project in Karnataka

*228. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had requested the Central Government in 1996 for according necessary approval for clearance of forest land to an extent of 183.6 ha. for setting up the Uduthorehall Project, comprising a reservoir in the Cauvery basin in Kollegal Tehsil, Chamrajnagar District, Karnataka, to facilitate irrigation of 6,273 ha. land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, the reasons for not according clearance so far and the steps, if any, taken to expedite the approval?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) A proposal seeking approval of the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 183.60 hectare forest land for construction of Uduthorehall Reservoir Project in Kollegal taluk, District Chamrajnagar for irrigating 6277.50 ha. land was received from the Government of Karnataka in December 1994. On scrutiny, the proposal was found incomplete